

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of June 20, 2006 is respectfully requested.

The substitute specification submitted May 1, 2006 has now been slightly amended as indicated above. In particular, amendments have been made in order to provide antecedent basis for the new claim language set forth in the amended claims. However, it is submitted that all of the amendments to the specification are merely formal in nature, and are fully supported by the original disclosure. Therefore, no new matter has been added. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments to the specification as indicated above.

The Examiner objected to claim 32 due to an informality. In particular, the term "section" was inadvertently omitted from previously-presented claim 32. Therefore, claim 32 has now been amended as indicated above so as to address this informality. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's claim objection has been overcome.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 21-48 in view of the prior art. In particular, the Examiner rejected claims 21-36, 38, 41-43 as being unpatentable over the Breynaert reference (WO01/79787) in view of the Baader reference (US 5,954,258); rejected claims 37, 39, and 40 as being unpatentable over the Breynaert reference in view of the Baader reference, and further in view of the Kagaya reference (US 2003/0084677); and rejected claims 34-38 as being unpatentable over the Breynaert reference in view of the Baader reference, and further in view of the Matsuyama reference (US 6,756,711). However, independent claims 21, 44, and 46 have now been amended as indicated above so as to clarify the distinctions between the present invention and the prior art. For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

A description of the arrangement and advantages of the present invention as recited in the amended claims will now be provided below with reference to various portions of the present application. However, reference to any particular portions of the application is provided only for illustrative purposes, and is not intended to otherwise limit the scope of the claims to any specific embodiments.

As explained in paragraphs [0002] - [0004] of the substitute specification filed May 3, 2006, motor units which include a motor and a speed reduction mechanism are being increasingly incorporated into automobile design for operating items such as wipers and sliding doors. Unfortunately, these types of motor units generally require a relatively large amount of space, thus often becoming impractical for use in an automobile. Consequently, the present invention has been developed in order to address this problem.

Independent claims 21, 44, and 46 have been amended in order to clarify the structural relationship between an output shaft of a speed reduction mechanism, a first circuit component containing section, and a second circuit component containing section. In particular, as illustrated in Figure 1 and described in paragraphs [0023] through [0026] of the substitute specification, the speed reduction mechanism 3 includes an output shaft 28 having a base end and a distal opposite the base end which projects outward from a main section of the speed reduction mechanism 3. A first circuit component containing section 33 of a drive control section is arranged at the *base end* of the output shaft 28 along a *longitudinal axis* of the output shaft 28. A second circuit component containing section 34 is arranged at the *base end* of the output shaft 28 along the *longitudinal axis* of the output shaft 28 and *farther* from the base end than the first circuit component containing section 33. Furthermore, the first circuit component containing section 33 and the second circuit component containing section 34 are arranged in a three-dimensional manner so as to be stacked one above the other with respect to an upper and lower direction. As a result of this combination of features, the motor unit including the motor and the speed reduction mechanism can be made compact so as to minimize space requirements.

The Breynaert teaches a magnetic current concentrator connector including a motor 2. The Examiner asserted that the Breynaert reference teaches a cover assembly 30, but acknowledged that the Breynaert reference does not teach or suggest a drive control section including a first circuit component containing section and a second circuit component containing section. Thus, the Breynaert reference also clearly does not teach or suggest the structural relationship among an output shaft of a speed reduction mechanism, a first circuit component

containing section, and a second circuit component containing section as recited in amended independent claims 21, 44, and 46.

The Matsuyama reference teaches a motor having a control circuit board for controlling a rotation of the motor, and includes a motor unit 2 and a speed reducing unit 3. A control circuit board 31 is accommodated in a circuit board receiving portion 21d (see Figure 2 and column 7, lines 14-37). However, the control circuit board 31 is located *laterally* with respect to the output shaft of the speed reducing unit 3, rather than along a longitudinal axis of the output shaft. Thus, the Matsuyama reference does not teach or suggest any circuit component containing section located along a longitudinal axis of an output shaft of a speed reduction mechanism. Furthermore, the Matsuyama reference does not disclose or suggest a drive control section that includes a first circuit component containing section and a second circuit component containing section, and therefore also clearly does not disclose or suggest the structural relationship of the circuit component containing sections with respect to the output shaft of the speed reduction mechanism as recited in amended independent claims 21, 44, and 46.

The Baader reference and the Kagaya reference do not disclose or suggest a speed reduction mechanism. Therefore, these references also clearly do not disclose or suggest the structural relationship between a first circuit component containing section and the second circuit component containing section with respect to an output shaft of a speed reduction mechanism as recited in amended independent claims 21, 44, and 46. Thus, these references would not motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Breynaert reference and/or the Matsuyama reference so as to obtain the invention recited in amended independent claims 21, 44, and 46. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 21, 44, and 46, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

The Examiner is also requested to note that new dependent claims 49-54 have been added, and these new dependent claims recite subject matter that further distinguishes the present invention from the prior art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshiyuki AMAGASA

By: 

W. Douglas Hahm
Registration No. 44,142
Attorney for Applicant

WDH/ck
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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